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The Cantata Singers

Will Wickham, Musical Director

present

Arthur Honegger's

King David

A symphonic psalm in three parts
after the drama by René Morax

Dr. Sandra Boysen..... Soprano
Fran Shumway.....Alto
Steve Shumway..... Tenor
Francis McLaren & Terri Limes ...Piano
Gary Yoggy Narrator
Janice SlocumThe Witch of Endor
Greg Fusare.....King David

Also featuring the Co-Winners of the
Young Performers Competition

Zachary Wolfe, piano
Mark Sophia, oboe

Sunday, February 26th, 2006

3:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church

Clinton St. & Rambler Road, Elmira

Program Notes:

Although **Arthur Honegger** (1892-1955) was born in Le Havre, France, he was a Swiss citizen and maintained contact with his homeland throughout his life. After studying harmony and violin in Paris, he studied composition with Charles Widor and Vincent D'Indy. As a young composer, Honegger became part of a group of composers that was originally known as *Les Nouveaux Jeunes*, formed by Erik Satie following a concert in 1917 at the studio of the painter Emile Lejeune. After only a year, Satie left the group, which soon began to frequent *Le Boeuf sur le Toit* (The Ox on the Roof) a Parisian bar named after a work by Milhaud. Opening night at the bar found the group, soon to become known as *Les Six*, enjoying the music of George Gershwin and Vincent Youmans as performed by Jean Cacteau, Jean Wiéner and Darius Milhaud.

Honegger's *King David*, a "Symphonic Psalm after a drama by René Morax," was begun in 1921 as incidental music to a play about the biblical king by Morax. It was immediately so popular that Honegger and Morax contrived a condensed version of the play that could be performed in a concert setting. This version, originally performed in 1923, was modeled on the oratorio style of the 18th century: big chorus numbers, chorales, solos, instrumental sections and recitative (narration) to tell the story. Honegger admitted being heavily influenced by the Passions of Bach and the energetic "barbarism" of Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*.

At the age of seven years, **Franz Liszt** (1811-1886) began taking piano lessons. Within two years he was playing concerts including difficult keyboard works of J.S. Bach and J.N. Hummel. Roughly thirty years later, Liszt was composing some very difficult music for piano, namely the *Hungarian Rhapsodies*. Perhaps the most familiar, *No. 2 in C# minor*, is the piece that we hear today. Like Liszt's concerts of about 180 years ago, is a difficult piece of an earlier master, being performed by a young virtuoso of the day.

Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) was a very prolific and popular composer. He was also an early victim of a sort of identity theft. Due to the higher price his music commanded, publishers would sometimes print the works of other composers as being by Haydn leading to a great deal of confusion for music historians. Into this mix comes an Oboe Concerto, rediscovered as a part of a collection at a publishing house, the parts had no composer's name listed and Haydn's name was obviously added to the unmarked score. In any case, a beautiful work that sounds like Haydn played beautifully by an amazing young oboist is simply wonderful, wherever it comes from.



King David

Join us for our annual Bach Festival on May 6th & 7th at Christ Episcopal Church, 33 East First Street, Corning. The Saturday program (time TBA) will be a Bach Aria recital with commentary by Bach expert Dr. William Cowdery. Sunday's performance by the Cantata Singers will feature Cantata 102, the Mass in G minor (BWV 235) and an Oboe d'amore and Flute Concerto. The concert on Sunday will begin at 4 pm.

Better yet, if you've ever sung with the Cantata Singers, or wished you had, now would be a great time to come join us! We rehearse Sunday afternoons, 4:00 - 6:30 PM at the First Presbyterian Church on West Clinton Street in Elmira. You can call Will Wickham at 796-5034 for information, or just come to rehearsal next Sunday. Either way, hope to see you soon!

CONCERT PERSONNEL

(In order of appearance):

Zachary Wolfe Young Performers Competition Co-Winner
Cantata Singers Will Wickham, Director
Francis McLaren & Terri Limes, Piano
Narrator..... Gary Yoggy
Alto Soloist..... Fran Shumway
Samuel & The Ghost of Samuel Bill Brodginiski
Jesse Tom McClosky
Tenor Soloist..... Steve Shumway
Soprano Soloist & The Angel..... Sandra Boysen
Servants..... Cora Range & Susan Nagle
The Witch of Endor Janice Slocum
David..... Greg Fusare
Mark Sophia..... Young Performers Competition Co-Winner
Nathan..... Ron Tunison

CANTATA SINGERS

Soprano

Ruth Bruning
Robin Fitzgerald
Isabel Gilroy
Dorothy Hoos
Kathy Lovell
Joy Judith McFarland
Susan Nagle
Susan Tanner

Alto

Loueda Bleiler
Shirley Brodginiski
Martha Horton
Jane Poliseo
Cora Range
Sarah Underwood
Lydia Wickham

Tenor

Bill Brodginiski
Felix Kapron
Thomas J. McCloskey
Gary Tucker
Ron Tunison

Bass

Jim Fink
Greg Fusare
Lee Martin
Stephen Nagle
Carl Steidel

Rehearsal Pianist: Frances McLaren

CONCERT PROGRAM

Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2 in C# Minor Franz Liszt
Zachary Wolfe
Young Performers Competition Co-Winner

King David

by Arthur Honegger

PART I

The age of the judges comes to an end as Samuel, the last of the judges, is directed by the Lord to anoint Saul as king of Israel. Although he does not want to be king, Saul had an aptitude for the position. As he trusted more in his own judgment than in the Lord's instructions, he was warned by Samuel that he would lose the favor of the Lord and the kingship would pass to another.

1) INTRODUCTION (Instrumental)

2) SONG OF THE SHEPHERD DAVID (Alto) – David can be found singing praise to the Lord while tending his sheep.

3) PSALM: ALL PRAISE TO HIM (Choir) – The Lord is with David, who continues singing songs of praise to Him.

3B) FANFARE (Instrumental) – In anticipation of war with Israel, the Philistines advance into the Valley of Elah. Saul's army sets up camp nearby.

3C) ENTRY OF GOLIATH (Instrumental)

4) SONG OF VICTORY (Choir) – The people celebrate David's victory over Goliath.

5) MARCH (Instrumental) – Saul appoints David as commander of his armies.

5A) SONG OF VICTORY (REPRISE) (Choir) – The people celebrate David's many victories as commander.

6) PSALM: IN THE LORD I PUT MY FAITH (Tenor) – David sings of his faith and trust in the Lord even after Saul's attempt to murder him.

7) PSALM: O HAD I WINGS OF A DOVE (Soprano) – As always, David's circumstances are reflected in his songs.

8) PSALM: SONG OF THE PROPHETS (Men of the choir)

9) PSALM: PITY ME, LORD! (Tenor)

10) SAUL'S CAMP (Instrumental) – David shows mercy on king Saul, who, as an enemy, has been hunting him in an attempt to eliminate the man he sees as his rival for the leadership of Israel. Following this adventure, David enters the service of the Philistine king of Gath.

CONCERT PROGRAM

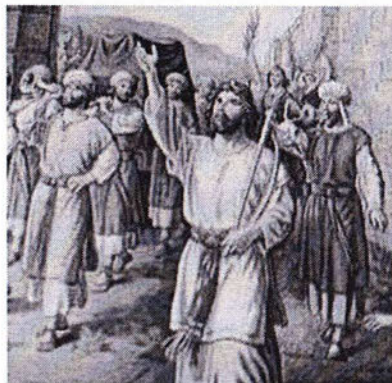
- 11) PSALM: GOD THE LORD SHALL BE MY LIGHT** (Choir)
12) INCANTATION OF THE WITCH OF ENDOR (Witch of Endor)
13) MARCH OF THE PHILISTINES (Instrumental) – Even as the Ghost of Samuel prophesied, a great and pivotal battle ensued.
14) LAMENT OF GILBOA (David, Soprano and Alto with Ladies of the choir)

PART II

The reign of David, the King of Israel, begins.

15) FESTIVE SONG (Soprano with Ladies of the choir) The people sing praise to the Lord for the Kingship of David

16) DANCE BEFORE THE ARK (Company) – David and the people of Israel celebrate the goodness of the Lord. Soldiers sing of exploits in battle and their deliverance by the Lord; Priests sing of devotion and prayer and the people sing in praise. A choir of heavenly hosts sing of the greatness of God and an Angel sings of the coming of a great “King of all people” from the line of David, the King of kings and a light for the nations. All the Israelites and the angels join in a great chorus of praise. Alleluia!



David before the Ark

Intermission

A free-will offering will be taken

CONCERT PROGRAM

Concerto for Oboe and Orchestra in C Major Haydn
Mark Sophia
Young Performers Competition Co-Winner
Cathy Ponzi – Piano

KING DAVID, PART III

David is a great king, strong and fair. He is at the height of his power and is blessed with the favor of the Lord and of the people of Israel.

17) CANTICLE: NOW MY VOICE IN SONG UPSOARING (Choir) – The people of Israel sing of their love of David as king.

18) SONG OF THE HANDMAID (Alto) Bathsheba returns the affections of the king.

19) PSALM OF PENITENCE (Choir) - David and Bathsheba along with all of Israel lament the sin that carries so high a price.

20) PSALM: BEHOLD, IN EVIL I WAS BORN (Choir) – All of Israel seek the mercy of the Lord.

21) PSALM: O SHALL I RAISE MINE EYES UNTO THE MOUNTAINS? (Tenor) Again David sings praise to the Lord who helps him defeat the army of Absalom.

22) THE SONG OF EPHRAIM (Soprano with Ladies of the choir) In bitter-sweet song the people celebrate the victory of David even as the king deeply mourns the death of his son.

23) MARCH OF THE HEBREWS (Instrumental) – Victorious, David and his troops return from battle.

24) PSALM: THEE WILL I LOVE, O LORD (Choir)

25) PSALM: IN MY DISTRESS (Choir)

26) THE CROWNING OF SOLOMON (Instrumental)

27) THE DEATH OF DAVID (Company) – Having lived a long and prosperous life, David dies praising and blessing the Lord. The angel again foretells of the coming of ‘a flower from Jesse’s stem’, the Messiah from the lineage of David. For the great kingship of David and retelling of the prophecy of Isaiah the entire host joins in the great chorus of praise: Alleluia!

Soli Deo Gloria!

The Soloists

Dr. Sandra Boysen (Soprano) has performed leading roles in U.S. opera houses, sung Tagalog folk songs throughout the Philippines, jammed with jazz musicians in concert, and entertained in a famed New York City cabaret, among her many venues. She received her D.M.A. and M.M. degrees in Voice Performance from the Florida State University School of Music under the direction of Roy Delp and previously studied with Yvonne Ciannella and Patricia Anderson. She has coached with Gerard Souzay, Samuel Sanders, Sally Sanford, Carol Webber, D'Anna Fortunato and Timothy Hoekman.

Her concert performances encompass over thirty major oratorio and cantata roles, including works of J.S. Bach, Mendelssohn, Honegger, Verdi, Vivaldi, Brahms, and Rutter. She appeared in Bruckner's *Te Deum* under the direction of Andre Thomas with the Florida State University Symphony Orchestra, and in Mahler's Resurrection *Symphony* finale with the Rochester Oratorio Society, directed by Roger Wilhelm. She was guest artist in recital at Westminster Choir College, presented recitals throughout New York, Florida, Georgia and Alabama, and filled two guest artist residencies at Emporia State University in Kansas. In September 2001, she appeared as soprano soloist at the Eastman Theatre in Mozart's *Requiem*, directed by the Eastman School's William Weinert, as a fundraiser for the victims of 9-11. Dr. Boysen has appeared several times previously with the Cantata Singers and she presented two workshops in vocal technique for the ensemble with pianist/choral conductor Paul Frolick in past years.

Prizes and honors include an Artist-Fellowship with the Bach Aria Institute at SUNY-Stony Brook, directed by Samuel Baron, and vocal competition prizes from Palm Beach Opera and Mobile Opera. In 2000, she traveled to the Philippines sponsored by the Rotary International Foundation, working with Filipino singers and voice teachers and presenting programs to many of that country's Rotary Clubs. She was also honored by the National Association of Teachers of Singing as the recipient of one of twelve appointments for the 2000 NATS Internship Program, held at Ithaca College. She has made frequent appearances with the Eastman

School of Music, Cornell University, Publick Musick, Rochester Oratorio Society and the Rochester Bach Festival, among others. She appears annually as soloist on the "Live From Hochstein" broadcast concerts, heard on WXXI Classical 91.5 FM.

Dr. Boysen is soprano soloist/section leader at Pittsford's Christ Episcopal Church, section leader for Rochester's Temple B'rith Kodesh's High Holy Days ensemble, and is on the voice faculty of both Nazareth College and the Hochstein School of Music & Dance. She is married to filmmaker, author and educator Charles Boyd.

Fran Shumway (Mezzo-soprano) is a graduate of Mansfield University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Music. Ms. Shumway performs regularly with the Cayuga Vocal Ensemble (Ithaca, NY), NYS Baroque and the Chorus/Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes. She has also appeared as guest soloist with the Hamilton College/Community Oratorio Society, the Colgate University Concert Choir/Orchestra, the Mansfield University Concert Choir/Orchestra, the Chorale and Sage Chapel Choir at Cornell University, and the Ithaca Community Chorus. Solo credits include Bach's *Mass in B Minor*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Handel's *Messiah* and *Judas Maccabeas*, and Purcell's *Ode to St. Cecilia*.

Steven Shumway (Tenor) resides in McLean, New York, and is a graduate of Mansfield University. This is Steve's third appearance with the Cantata Singers. He does frequent oratorio work throughout the Central New York/Northern Pennsylvania region, including performances at Colgate University, Hamilton College, Cornell University, SUNY Cortland, and Mansfield University, as well as engagements with the Cantata Singers and the Ithaca Community Chorus. Most recently he sang the role of the Evangelist in the Bach Christmas Oratorio. Among his other solo credits are: Handel's oratorios *Esther* and *Messiah*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Schütz's *Musikalische Exequien*, and Beethoven's *Mass in C Major*, as well as a number of J. S. Bach's cantatas. Steve has been a longtime member of the Cayuga Vocal Ensemble, a sixteen-voice professional ensemble based in Ithaca, New York. In addition to his work with the Cayuga Vocal Ensemble, he has appeared with NYS Baroque and The Publick Musick as both soloist and chorus member, and serves as tenor section-leader, and occasional soloist, with the Chorus of the Southern Finger Lakes Symphony.

Zachary Wolfe is 18 years old and is a home schooled senior who has been playing the piano for ten years. For the past four years he has been studying under the amazing instruction of Mrs. Frances McLaren. Among his musical accomplishments are winning the Young Performers Competition for the last two years, winning the Polyhymnia Music Scholarship for piano, placing first at the PARBC state "Talents For Christ" competition, and receiving perfect scores at the Fletcher's Piano Showcase. Zach greatly enjoys serving the Lord with his talent as a pianist at Grace Baptist Church in Ulster, PA. Although performing seems to be Zach's forte, he has also written several advanced hymn arrangements and composed some short pieces. When not at the piano, Zach is busy doing his schoolwork, working part time at his family's poultry farm, and weightlifting. He is planning to attend Bob Jones University in South Carolina this fall and major in piano performance. Zach is very honored to be a part of today's concert with the Cantata Singers.



Mark Sophia is a 16-year-old sophomore at Horseheads High School who has played the oboe for four years. Currently studying with Paige Morgan of Ithaca College, this is Mark's second season as the principal oboist of the Youth Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes. He also plays in the folk group at St. Anthony-St. Patrick's Church, as well as in the Wind Ensemble, Woodwind Quintet and Marching Band at Horseheads High School. He has attended music camps at Mansfield University and Colgate University. Mark performed last season with the Cantata Singers as oboist in the orchestra for the Mozart *Mass in C Minor*. He plans to continue with his musical studies after high school and hopes to attend a music conservatory and someday perform classical music with a professional orchestra. In the meantime, he enjoys playing tennis, skiing, attending orchestra performances, and of course, making his own oboe reeds.



Gary Yoggy, a native Elmiran, is no stranger to theatre-going audiences in the Twin Tiers. He has been active with Elmira Little Theatre since 1982 and has directed their popular "Visit to the

Golden Age of Radio" show since 1988. He recently directed their production of *The Caine Mutiny*, and has also directed *Twelve Angry Men* for Keuka Lake Players and a dinner theater production of *Ten Little Indians* for Lake Country Players. Favorite onstage roles include "Big Daddy" in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, "Matthew Harrison Brady" in *Inherit the Wind*, the "Stage Manager" in *Our Town* (several times!) and Dr. Düssel in *The Diary of Anne Frank*. He also narrated last year's American Guild of Organists program about Bach and Albert Schweitzer.

Gary, who holds a B.A. from the University of Michigan, and an M.A. from Syracuse University, has taught history and geography at Corning Community College since 1963. He is married and has three adult children and five grandchildren.

Janice Slocum is also well known to area audiences. She's performed with various theatre companies, including Elmira Little Theatre, Elmira College, Summer Repertory Company of the Southern Finger Lakes, and Corning Community College, in roles ranging from Maggie in "Cat On A Hot Tin Roof" to Mother Superior in "Nonsense II." Janice can also be seen and heard annually as the featured soloist on the Arctic League Telethon.

Greg Fusare is participating in his first concert with the Cantata Singers. He has performed with the Waverly Summer Musical Theatre, Elmira Little Theatre, Lake Country Players, Angels in the Wings and Back Porch Productions in both musical and non-musical performances. He is thrilled to be part of such a wonderful group.

Special thanks go to:

- *Betsey Crimmins and the staff and parishioners of First Presbyterian Church for hosting this concert and for use of the facilities for rehearsals;*
- *Elmira College Music Department*
- *Haverford College Music Department*
- *Tom Lloyd*
- *Joe Cook*
- *Judy Sheasley*